Shuttle Engine Designs Revolutionize Solar Power



Marshall Space Flight Center

SolarReserve Santa Monica, California

NASA Technology

- The Space Shuttle Main Engine was built under contract to NASA in the 1970s by Rocketdyne, now part of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne (PWR)
- PWR's NASA work allowed it to glean expertise in handling high heat flux, extreme temperatures, and cyclic temperature gradients over long periods

c Solar Reserve

Partnership

- With funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) and industry, PWR leveraged its NASA experience to develop large demonstrations of solar power tower plant technology: Solar One and Solar Two
- A decade later, PWR granted an exclusive license of its NASA spinoff solar technology to SolarReserve, which now develops concentrating solar power that is 100 percent renewable with no harmful emissions

Benefits

- The technology can provide electricity from the Sun on-demand, even after dark or when cloudy
- The company is constructing a plant in Nevada to power 75,000 homes during peak electricity periods, creating more than 4,300 jobs
- SolarReserve has numerous upcoming installation projects